

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-02 SCA-01 L-02 SY-04 FBIE-00 INR-05

RSC-01 EURE-00 /028 W

----- 062410

P R 211502Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASGDC PRIORITY 4938

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LONDON 13664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CPRS, UK, NI

SUBJECT: LONG KESH MAZE PRISONER EXONERATES BRITISH
ARMY AS RIOT CAUSE

REF: (A) BELFAST 157; (B) BELFEST A-70

1. BELFAST CONSUL GENERAL VISITED LONG KESH MAZE PRISON
OCTOBER 19 AT REQUEST GERALD JOSEPH BRADY. LATTER IS
AMCIT AND CONVICTED IRA PRISONER. VISIT ARRANGED THROUGH
PRISON OFFICIALS. IT NOTEWORTHY AUTHORITIES GRANTED
PERMISSION AMERICAN OFFICIAL TO VISIT WHILE SECSTATE
REFUSING ALL OTHER REQUESTS. CONSUL GENERAL REPORTS
FOLLOWING:

2. BRADY DISHEVELED AND DIRTY BUT PHYSICALLY UNHARMED'
MAIN REASON FOR REQUESTING VISIT WAS TO RENEW APPEAL
FOR AMNESTY AND REPATRIATION TO UNITED STATES (REF B).
BRADY APPREHENSIVE THAT IN FUTURE VIOLENCE AT PRISON
HE COULD BE HURT. HE ALSO SEEMED TO BE REFLECTING
GENERAL CONCERN IRA PRISONERS OVER BRITISH INTENTIONS
WITH REGARD THEIR FUTURE. MAIN WORRY IS THAT BRITISH
WILL DISPERSE THEM THROUGHOUT PRISONS IN UK PROPER.
BRADY PUT OBJECTIONS AS BEING UNACCEPTABLE LOSS POLITICAL
PRISONER STATUS AND HARDSHIPS DISTANCE WOULD IMPOSE ON
PRISONERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. PARENTHETICALLY IT NOTED
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IT WOULD ALSO DISMEMBER IRA APPARAT AMONG PRISONERS.

BRADY SAID ANY MOVE THIS DIRECTION WOULD CAUSE UNPRECEDENTED VIOLENCE IN PRISON AND ON STREETS.

3. ACCORDING BRADY VIOLENCE LONG KESH STARTED LATE AFTERNOON OCT. 15 WHEN TWO MASKED REPUBLICAN CONVICTED PRISONERS IN COMPOUND 13 ATTACKED AND BEAT A "BLACK-LISTED" GUARD WHO HAD BEEN FORBIDDEN BY THE PRISONERS TO ENTER THE COMPOUND. (PRISON GOVERNOR) TRUESDALE THEN DEMANDED ATTACKERS BE SURRENDERED. PRISONERS' COMPOUND 13 REFUSED AND TRUESDALE SENT IN MORE GUARDS TO BRING ASSAILANTS OUT. UP TO THAT POINT BRADY SAID TROUBLE COULD HAVE BEEN AVERTED BUT GOVERNOR REFUSED TO LET THE IRA PRISON COMMANDER DAVID MORLEY GO FROM HIS COMPOUND NUMBER 16 TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE MEN IN COMPOUND 13. THE GUARDS USED BATONS IN THE RUSH AND WERE REPULSED BY THROWN BRICKS AND BY CLUBS. BRADY CLAIMED USE BATONS CONTRARY TO "AGREEMENT," COPY LODGED WITH SIM FEIN. BRADY WAS UNCLEAR AS TO HOW THE RIOTING SPREAD TO THE OTHER COMPOUNDS BUT HE SAID THAT THE FIRES WERE STARTED SOMETIME BEFORE MIDNIGHT. (FROM OTHER SOURCES IT IS CLEAR THAT THE GUARDS WERE PULLED OUT OF THE INTERIOR COMPOUND AREA AND DEFENDED THE HEADQUARTERS SECTION AND THE LAST INTERIOR GATES. HAD THE PRISONERS GOTTEN THROUGH THEY WOULD HAVE HAD SOME 500 YARDS OF PARKING LOT AND TROOP HOUSING TO TRAVERSE BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE OUTER PERIMETER PATROLLED BY THE ARMY.) BRADY SAID THAT THE ARMY FIRST ENTERED THE COMPOUND AREA AT 0700 ON OCT. 16. TROOPS SUBDUED RIOTERS BY USE C.S. RPT C.S. GAS AND RUBBER BULLETS, "INDISCRIMINATELY"

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4939

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 13664

ACCORDING BRADY. SURRENDERING PRISONERS HUMILIATED'
ALSO ACCORDING BRADY BY BEING SPREADEAGLED AGAINST WIRE
FOR LONG PERIODS TIME. TROOPS HAD RESTORED ORDER AND
DEPARTED COMPOUNDS BY 1930 AND PRISONERS HAD BEEN FED
WITH TWO SLICES BREAD AND PINT MILK.

4. BRADY CLAIMED IT UNTRUE THAT PRISONERS HAD FIRED
HOSPITAL. HE SAID STORES TAKEN ONLY TO STOCKPILE 'FIELD
HOSPITALS' IN EXPECTATION INJURIES. LOYALIST PRISONERS
HE SAID HELPED TEND INJURED REPUBLICANS EVEN THOUGH THEY
DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN RESISTANCE.

5. POST-RIOT CONDITIONS LONG KESH OBSERVABLY GRIM. ONLY
TWO COMPOUNDS APPEAR INTACT AND GREAT MAJORITY
PRISONERS SLEEPING ON MATTRESSES UNDER WINDBREAKS MADE
FROM CORRUGATED IRON DEBRIS. ARMY ENGINEERS WORKING
DOUBLE SHIFTS ON MASSIVE CLEAN-UP JOB.

6. BRADY IS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH HIS OWN WELFARE.
HE CLAIMED PASSIVE ROLE DURING RIOT, SITTING ON SOCCER
FIELD. IN CONSUL GENERAL INTERVIEW WITH PRISON
GOVERNOR ROBERT TRUESDALE FOLLOWING MEETING WITH BRADY,
TRUESDALE SAID HE WOULD DO ANYTHING HE COULD TO HELP
BRADY OBTAIN EXTRADITION, "IRELAND'S LOSS WOULD BE
AMERICA'S GAIN."

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